

FOG MAIL ROOM

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05 SEPTEMBER 1998

SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM), WT DOCKET 98-143

DEAR SIR:

I AGREE THAT THE RESTRUCTURING OF AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSES SHOULD BE DONE, BOTH QUICKLY, AND FAIRLY! PROVISION SHOULD BE INCORPORATED WHEREBY THOSE OF US WHO IN GOOD FAITH, TOOK THE CLASS A EXAMINATION, SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DOWN GRADED! WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN GRANDFATHERED INTO THE EXTRA CLASS LICENSE! THE CLASS A LICENSE, WAS THE EQUIVALENT TO THE EXTRA CLASS! IN SOME RESPECTS, IT WAS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE EXTRA CLASS LICENSE! THERE ARE NO LONGER (FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING) ALL THAT MANY OF US LEFT! MANY OF US (MYSELF INCLUDED) HAVE TAKEN THE DOWNGRADING OF THE CLASS A LICENSE, INTO THE ADVANCED CLASS, AS AN INSULT! WE TOOK THE CLASS A EXAMINATION IN GOOD FAITH, IN ORDER TO USE ALL OF THE AMATEUR FREQUENCIES! THAT CLASS OF LICENSE GAVE US FULL USAGE OF BOTH THE TWENTY-METER (20), AND SEVENTY-FIVE (75) METER PHONE SUB-BANDS! WE HAD HELD OUR LICENSES FOR THE REQUIRED MINIMUM TIME OF ONE YEAR, BEFORE GOING UP TO THE NEAREST FCC EXAMINATION POINT, AND TAKING THE CLASS A EXAMINATION! THE EXAMINATION WAS OF THE ESSAY TYPE, AND NOT MULTIPLE CHOICE! EITHER YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING, OR YOU DIDN'T! IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

FOR INSTANCE: WE MIGHT HAVE TO DRAW A COMPLETE TYPE OF MODULATION SYSTEM; AS NAMED IN THE EXAMINATION, AND EXPLAIN HOW IT WORKED! ONE QUESTION I REMEMBER, TOLD ME TO DRAW, THEN EXPLAIN "HOW TO NEUTRALIZE A CLASS C, RF AMPLIFIER"! VERY FEW AMATEURS OF TODAY, ARE ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE AN AMPLIFIER, MUCH LESS DRAW, OR EXPLAIN HOW, OR WHY, IT IS DONE! THEY HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF PARASITICS, OR HOW TO TRY AND ELIMINATE THEM!

THE EXAMINATION FOR AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSES OF TODAY, DO NOT HAVE ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS; TELLING THE APPLICANT TO USE THE MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS (PROVIDED)! MANY OF THOSE HOLDING THEIR PRESENT GRADE OF LICENSE, KNOW ONLY THE ANSWERS THEY HAVE MEMORIZED, AND VERY LITTLE ELSE! I RECENTLY OVERHEARD A HOLDER OF THE EXTRA CLASS LICENSE, TELLING SOMEONE, THAT HE NOW HAD TO LEARN WHAT HE HAD MEMORIZED! THAT TYPE OF EXAMINATION, DOES AMATEUR RADIO, ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD! I MUST SAY THO, HE WAS BEING HONEST, IN HIS REMARKS!

NEXT: ELIMINATE THE PRESENT NOVICE FREQUENCIES COMPLETELY, BUT KEEP THE 200 WATT MAXIMUM POWER FOR THOSE HOLDING THAT GRADE OF LICENSE; THE SAME FOR TECHNICIAN PLUS! THEY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED IN THEIR USE OF PHONE, TO THE 160, 40, 10 METER BAND, OR HIGHER, AS CLASS B HAMS WERE; PRIOR TO WHEN THE PRESENT LICENSING SYSTEM WAS INSTITUTED! THE, GENERAL CLASS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED SAME AS NOW. ADVANCED, AND EXTRA CLASS SHOULD

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BE ALLOWED TO USE CW IN ALL BANDS WHERE CW IS ALLOWED. FIVE WORDS PER MINUTE, SHOULD BE THE REQUIRED CODE SPEED FOR THE GENERAL CLASS LICENSE; TWELVE WORDS PER MINUTE SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE ADVANCED, AND EXTRA CLASS. HOLDERS OF THE NO CODE LICENSE SHOULD BE KEPT ABOVE 50 MHz! THIS WOULD PUT THE UNITED STATES ON A PAR WITH OUR CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS. THE FCC SHOULD TRY TO GET CANADA TO HONOR OUR FREQUENCIES, AND LESSEN INTERFERENCE IN OUR CW BANDS, BY THEIR PHONE STATIONS!

TO HELP EASE THE INTERFERENCE PROBLEM, THE 75 METER PHONE PORTION OF THE 80 METER BAND SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO 3.7 MHz! SLOW-SCAN TELEVISION AND ALL OTHER SUCH INTERFERENCE ORIGINATING EQUIPMENT, SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO A PARTICULAR AREA WITHIN THE PHONE SUB-BAND! SINGLE SIDE BAND, AND CW, SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN THE REMAINING PHONE SUB-BAND ONLY! THE SAME RESTRICTIONS SHOULD APPLY TO BOTH THE 40 AND 20 METER PHONE SUB-BANDS; AS FOR THE 75 METER BAND! UNTIL SOMETHING ON THAT ORDER IS DONE, INTERFERENCE WILL CONTINUE TO REIGN, SAME AS IT ALWAYS HAS! ON THE WEST COAST, THE ENTIRE 40 METER CW BAND IS USELESS IN THE EVENING, DUE TO PHONE AND SLOW SCAN TV INTERFERENCE; AS WELL AS FOREIGN BROADCAST STATIONS!

THE FCC SHOULD AGAIN BE REQUIRED TO ENFORCE THE REGULATIONS, AS THEY FORMERLY DID! WE ARE BOTHERED BY PIRATES, WHO PLAY MUSIC, AND MAKE ALL TYPES OF NOISES, INTERFERING WITH OUR LEGITIMATE CONVERSATIONS! ON THE WEST COAST, THERE IS SOMEONE WHO CAUSES DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, ALMOST EVERY NIGHT, ON 75 METER SINGLE SIDE BAND; EVERY TIME ANYTHING TECHNICAL IS MENTIONED, OR BEING EXPLAINED! WE KNOW IT IS DELIBERATE, BECAUSE THEY VARY THE INTERFERING SIGNAL BACK AND FORTH, ACROSS OUR WORKING FREQUENCY! WE HAVE CHANGED FREQUENCY, OR SHIFTED TO UPPER SIDEBAND, AND THE INTERFERENCE FOLLOWS US! ONE SUCH CHARACTER, TRIED TO USE TWO DIFFERENT, CALL SIGNS FOR IDENTIFICATION, WITHIN A VERY FEW MINUTES RECENTLY! WE MANAGED TO TRAP ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL SOMETIME BACK, AND HAVE NOT HEARD HIM SINCE! THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER SUCH INSTANCES, TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION HERE! SOME OF THESE CHARACTERS, HAVE DARED US TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT; KNOWING IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE CAUGHT!

SINCERELY,

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